

are no longer needed, or that have completed their missions, totaled \$7.6 million. This reflects the termination of 47 committees, originally established under both congressional authorities or implemented by executive agency decisions. Agencies will continue to review and eliminate advisory committees that are obsolete, duplicative, or of a lesser priority than those that would serve a well-defined national interest. New committees will be established only when they are essential to the conduct of necessary business, are clearly in the public's best interests, and when they serve to enhance Federal decisionmaking through an open and collaborative process with the American people.

I urge the Congress to work closely with the General Services Administration and each department and agency to examine additional opportunities for strengthening the contributions made by Federal advisory committees.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 9, 2000.

RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF SENATE FROM MARCH 9, 2000 OR MARCH 10, 2000 UNTIL MARCH 20, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 94) providing for recess or adjournment of the Senate from March 9, 2000, or March 10, 2000, until March 20, 2000, or second day after Members are notified.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 94

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, March 9, 2000, or Friday, March 10, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, March 20, 2000, or until such time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

HOURLY MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 13, 2000, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14 for morning-hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WOLF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

PROPOSED SALE OF ATTACK HELICOPTERS TO TURKEY WOULD DESTABILIZE REGION, THREATEN HUMAN RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration is currently considering a \$4 billion sale of attack helicopters to the Republic of Turkey. I am here tonight, Mr. Speaker, to express my strong opposition to this proposal.

Providing these helicopters to Turkey will only serve to increase tensions and instability in a region of the world that is vital to U.S. interests and which is already plagued by conflicts and human rights violations.

Put very simply, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the Turkish Armed Forces will use this advanced American military technology to threaten its neighbors and abuse its own citizens.

Mr. Speaker, several organizations have called upon the Clinton administration to refuse an export license for the attack helicopters to the Turkish Army because Turkey has failed to

make progress on human rights benchmarks set by the administration in 1998 as a condition for approval of the export license.

Among those organizations working to block the export license is Amnesty International. Dr. William F. Schulz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA, stated that, "Based on the State Department's own annual human rights report, Turkey fails to meet the human rights benchmarks."

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the section on Turkey in the State Department's annual human rights report issued just a few weeks ago states that, "The security forces continue to torture, beat, and otherwise abuse persons regularly. Torture, beatings, and other abuses by security forces remained widespread, at times resulting in deaths. Security forces at times beat journalists."

Mr. Speaker, in a particularly relevant issue with regard to the helicopters, both the State Department and Amnesty International have reported the use of helicopters to attack Kurdish villages in Turkey and to transport troops to regions where they have tortured and killed civilians.

Do we really want to see American advanced technology used by Turkey to accomplish these operations against the Kurdish people with even more ruthless efficiency?

Mr. Speaker, this helicopter deal is also a danger to regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Caucasus.

Recently there has been a thawing in Greek-Turkish relations, a trend which we all welcome. The sale of these helicopters to Turkey has the potential to upset this recent progress in the relations between these neighbors. It could well be seen by Greece as a destabilizing step at a time when we are seeking renewed efforts to resolve the Cyprus conflict, an issue that the administration considers a major priority.

In terms of Turkey's legitimate defense needs, it was hard to see any justification for these advanced attack helicopters. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, it is apparent that Turkey is already overarmed.

The neighboring country that has suffered the most from the Turkish Government's aggressive militaristic and nationalistic posture is Armenia. In the years between 1915 and 1923, Turkey perpetrated genocide against the Armenian people resulting in 1.5 million innocent Armenian civilians being murdered.

In the year 2000, Turkey continues to maintain an illegal blockade of its border with Armenia, which has prevented the delivery of vitally needed supplies to Armenia. Even Turkish business people would like to see the opening of corridors of trade and transport with Armenia. Turkey has also backed Azerbaijan in the conflict over Nagorno Karabagh. Given this pattern of hostility, the people of Armenia have every reason to fear the acquisition of these helicopters by Turkey.